matter, and diagrams are woven into an organic whole. To economize the attention of the reader, quantities are expressed in large units—millions of barrels, thousands of dollars, etc.—not only in the text itself but also in formal tables. How many of Mr. Pogue's readers will correctly interpret the logarithmic charts that he uses to show rates of change may be open to question; but he has taken every precaution to prevent misunderstanding, including an ingenious marginal "sale of increase or decrease." Indeed, the standard of execution of all the diagrams is high, and there are many of them. As a presentation of quantitative data the book is notably successful.

F. G. TRYON

U. S. Geological Survey

History of the Great War Based on Official Documents. Medical Service General History, Volume I. London: His Majesty's Stationary Office. 1921. 463 pp.

This is the first of four volumes on the general history of the British medical service, and is a part of the series giving a more detailed history of the war from the medical and surgical standpoints. This volume relates in narrative form the chief features of the medical service from 1914 to 1918 in the United Kingdom in garrison overseas and with expeditionary forces. The other three volumes of the series will deal with the medical service in France, Italy, the Mediterranean area, Mesopotamia, Aden, East Africa, and Russia.

There is a brief summary of the growth of the Royal Army Medical Corps before the World War, and its subsequent expansion. An account of the training of the medical staff, its duties, administration, and the handling of supplies and equipment from 1914 through demobilization is given in detail. It is pointed out that the medical service expanded rather by accretion than by preconceived plan. There is a brief summary of the medical service in West and Southwest Africa and in Tsingtau. There is also a full account of some of the more important problems which the R. A. M. C. encountered, especially in reference to the medical examination of recruits, the sanitary arrangements for billeting, and the demobilization of the doctors. This impartial explanation answers the criticism which was so common during the war and which arose from the failure to understand the problems involved. The reader of the volume will get an intelligent grasp of the problems connected with the R. A. M. C.; and for those who wish to go into greater detail there are tables and summaries in the Appendix giving information relative to the quantity of supplies and equipment and of the accommodations for the wounded.

MARGARET GANTT STEPHENS

A First Course in Statistics, by D. Caradog Jones. London: G. Bell & Sons, Ltd. 1921. 286 pp.

This book is adapted for use as a text by students who have previously covered an elementary treatise on the subject. True, it begins with a review of fundamental principles, but the treatment is so brief and the discussion so meager that it is not well suited to beginners in the field.

The weak side of this work is that it analyzes only in an incomplete way many of the reasons for the adoption of certain processes or methods. In this respect it is sharply contrasted with Armand Julin's recent work on *Principes de Statistique Théorique et Appliquée.* The strong feature of the book under review is that it gives a rather simple and, in some cases, an exceptionally well worked out presentation of the methods involved in such processes as correlation, sampling, and curve fitting. The volume will doubtless prove to be one of the best available texts in statistics for students who have mastered elementary calculus and have a mathematical turn of mind.

WILLFORD I. KING